**Policy Council-An Important Role for Early Head Start Parents**

There are many ways for parents to support their child’s education while in the Early Head Start program. Participating in parent teacher conferences, doing learning activities at home with your child, and joining parent meetings or family engagement events are just a few ways that you can support your child’s journey with Early Head Start.

***There is also another important way that you can make an impact on the education of your child. It is by joining the Head Start Policy Council and it is time to recruit members!***

Policy Council is a group of parents and community members who meet monthly to participate in decision-making and Head Start program design, implementation and operation. Representatives are elected from all Head Start program options; the Traditional Center-based program, Early Head Start (which serves 0-3 year olds), Full Day, Extended Day, and the Child Care Partnership option. **One parent from each Head Start Site can be elected to this exciting and rewarding position**. If more people are interested, we will elect alternates. Alternates will join the meeting if the elected parent is unable to attend.

If you are interested in representing the Early Head Start Program at Policy Council, you can get more information from the Family Services Specialist who is assigned to your child’s Early Head Start Child Care site. They will explain the process to apply for this position and how the process of voting for the representative works.

Policy Council Meetings take place monthly, are usually in-person and held in Traverse City or Kalkaska. However, if there is a need to have this meeting take place virtually over Zoom, you will be able to participate from home using a phone, tablet, or computer that is connected to the internet. These Zoom meetings usually run from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

For in-person and zoom meetings, Policy Council members will be paid up to $25 for childcare, a connectivity compensation of $10/month, and **receive a stipend for your mileage** to and from the meeting at the federal rate. The in person meetings run from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch is provided. **If elected, you will attend your first meeting on November 10, 2022. Reps elected prior to our October meeting are welcome to attend, but the first official meeting of the year will be in November. We will then do elections for the Executive Offices in December 2022.**

***Please consider this important role because parents are vital to the success of the program***. Feel free to call the Early Head Start Family Services Specialist with any questions at [*phone number here*].

Sincerely,

[*Name Here)
E*arly Head Start Family Support Specialist

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P: Head Start/Policy Council Mgt Info/Policy Council Parent Rep Info for Start up 2020/Policy Council Parent Rep Info for Early Head Start Childcare Partnerships